

REMARKS

Claims 11, 14 and 19-24 remain pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

RESTRICTIONS

In the restriction requirement, the Examiner asked to Applicant to indicate one of two possible positions with respect to claims 18 and 31-36. Inasmuch as claims 18 and 31-36 are cancelled, the Examiner's request is moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 12, 13, 15 – 17 and 25 – 30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph. Claims 12, 13, 15 – 17 and 25 -30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. These rejections are traversed. Notwithstanding, claims 12, 13, 15 – 17 and 25 – 30 are cancelled. Accordingly, these rejections are moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 15 – 18, 25 – 27, 29, 31 – 33 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Plummer (U.S. Pat. No. 3,718,078). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding and solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, claims 15 – 18, 25 – 27, 29, 31 – 33 and 35 are cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 28 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plummer (U.S. Pat. No. 3,718,078). Claims 30 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plummer (U.S. Pat. No. 3,718,078) in view of De Palma (U.S. Pat. No. 3,682,530). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding and solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, claims 28, 30, 34 and 36 are cancelled. Accordingly, these rejections are moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 11, 14 and 19 – 24. Applicant cancelled objected to claims 12 and 13.

CONCLUSION


It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 23, 2006

By:


G. Gregory Schivley
Reg. No. 27,382
Bryant E. Wade
Reg. No. 40,344

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

[BEW/cmh]